

TOPIC Stendal-Borstel Airfield

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EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 20 December 1952 to 21 January 1953

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 16 February 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 2 - two sketches on ditto

REMARKS

SOURCE

25X1

1. At 11:30 a.m. on 20 December 1952, 26 canvas-covered aircraft were observed in front of the hangars at Stendal-Borstel airfield. The planes were parked in two rows with their noses facing each other and about 30 meters apart.¹
2. On 20 December, three radio masts were observed about 150 meters east of the repair hangar at the field. Two of them were 10 to 15 meters high and interconnected by an antenna, the third one was about 18 meters high with a cage antenna, about 1 meter in width, and a number of rods, about 1 meter long, on top.²
3. On 20 December, about 40 shrapnelproof aircraft revetments with wooden inner walls and earth-covered outer walls were observed around the field. Each revetment consisted of three walls with two openings at the rear.
4. At 11:30 a.m. on 20 December, a DF trailer about 2.5 meters high, 4 meters long and 2 meters wide, was observed in line with the hangars, about 50 meters west of the Stendal-Wittenberge road. The vehicle was surrounded by a circle of pegs 1 to 2 meters apart, with bare wires extending from the pegs to the roof of the vehicle which was not provided with a mast. The circle of pegs was 10 to 12 meters in diameter.
5. On 20 December, source observed that four barracks buildings were re-erected in the area of the former Fallschirmjaeger Kaserne east of the field. The buildings resembled the temporary buildings of the former Reich Labor Service except that they were longer and built of bricks. Individual Soviet soldiers were observed there.³
6. On 20 December, an AA gun emplacement with five AA guns with an estimated caliber of 37 mm was observed about 200 meters east of the Stendal-Borstel road, about 600 meters north of the settlement along this road. In the middle of the emplacement there were two earth bunkers one of which was apparently occupied as smoke emerged from its smokestack. A sentry armed with a submachine gun was posted near the guns.⁴
7. In early January, source observed that the entrance gate to the field was about 25 meters south of the northeastern corner of the field, 20 to 25 meters west of the Stendal-Borstel road. From this road, the entrance gate

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25X1A

SECRET

- 2 -

with the guardhouse could be observed fairly well. A spur track to the field extended just north of the main entrance. About 30 to 50 meters south of this entrance, about 20 meters from the road, there was a two-story villa which appeared to be unoccupied. Adjacent to the south, there were six small two-story buildings with small gardens toward the road. These buildings were occupied by German families. The southernmost building was bordered by a garden, 10 to 15 meters wide, and at the border of this garden began the barbed wire fence around the field. A filled-in and abandoned gravel pit covered with bushes was located about 50 meters south of the private houses. Between the houses and the gravel pit, there was a small gate in the fence, and a path was trampled in the snow to the aircraft hangars. A radio installation with a high mast was located about 40 meters south of the gravel pit and 30 meters from the road. Shrapnelproof aircraft revetments extended from the gravel pit to the southeastern corner of the field and from there toward the west.²

8. A new cantonment was observed in the area of the former Fallschirmjaeger Kaserne in the eastern section of the field. Some of the destroyed buildings were reconstructed and surrounded by a board fence 2 meters high. In early January, the barracks installation was occupied by a Soviet unit. A path had been trampled from the new cantonment to the field.³
9. In late December, an AA gun emplacement with four guns was observed east of the Stendal-Borstel road. Source believed that the AA gun emplacements located nearby were also occupied. Bunkers were observed next to the AA gun emplacements.⁴
10. Between 9:20 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 14 January, there was intensive air activity by IL-10s, the individual planes remaining aloft for about 20 minutes. On 21 January, 24 planes were counted at the field, and source believed that additional planes were stationed there.¹

25X1

11. On 2 January, a sentry wearing red-bordered black epaulets but no insignia was posted at the gate to the Neue Kaserne along the Stendal-Borstel road. A shed about 50 meters long with its rear pointing toward the road was newly erected in the western section of the installation. Soviet soldiers still worked on the roof of this shed which obstructed the view to the installation. On 9 January, the barracks installation was still guarded by a sentry wearing red-bordered black epaulets without insignia. No military training was observed in the barracks area, but work details removed the snow. Some officers observed on the way to or from the installation wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. At about 4 p.m., trucks [redacted] each occupied by 16 men, came from the direction of Borstel. The EM who wore red-bordered black epaulets descended from the vehicles in front of the barracks installation, while the trucks proceeded toward Stendal. One truck driver wore black-bordered blue epaulets. Truck [redacted] moved from the direction of Stendal toward the barracks installation.

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- 25X1A 1. [redacted] Comment. Two sources observed about 25 IL-10s at Stendal-Borstel airfield in mid-December 1952 and mid-January 1953. According to available information, the field was believed to be occupied by a ground attack regiment and a reconnaissance regiment, both regiments equipped with IL-10s. A large portion of the aircraft at the field were probably parked in the hangars. The possibility that one of the two units was transferred was previously reported. [redacted]. The present report, however, contains no indications which support this assumption.




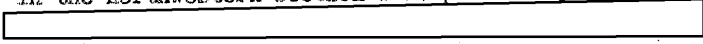

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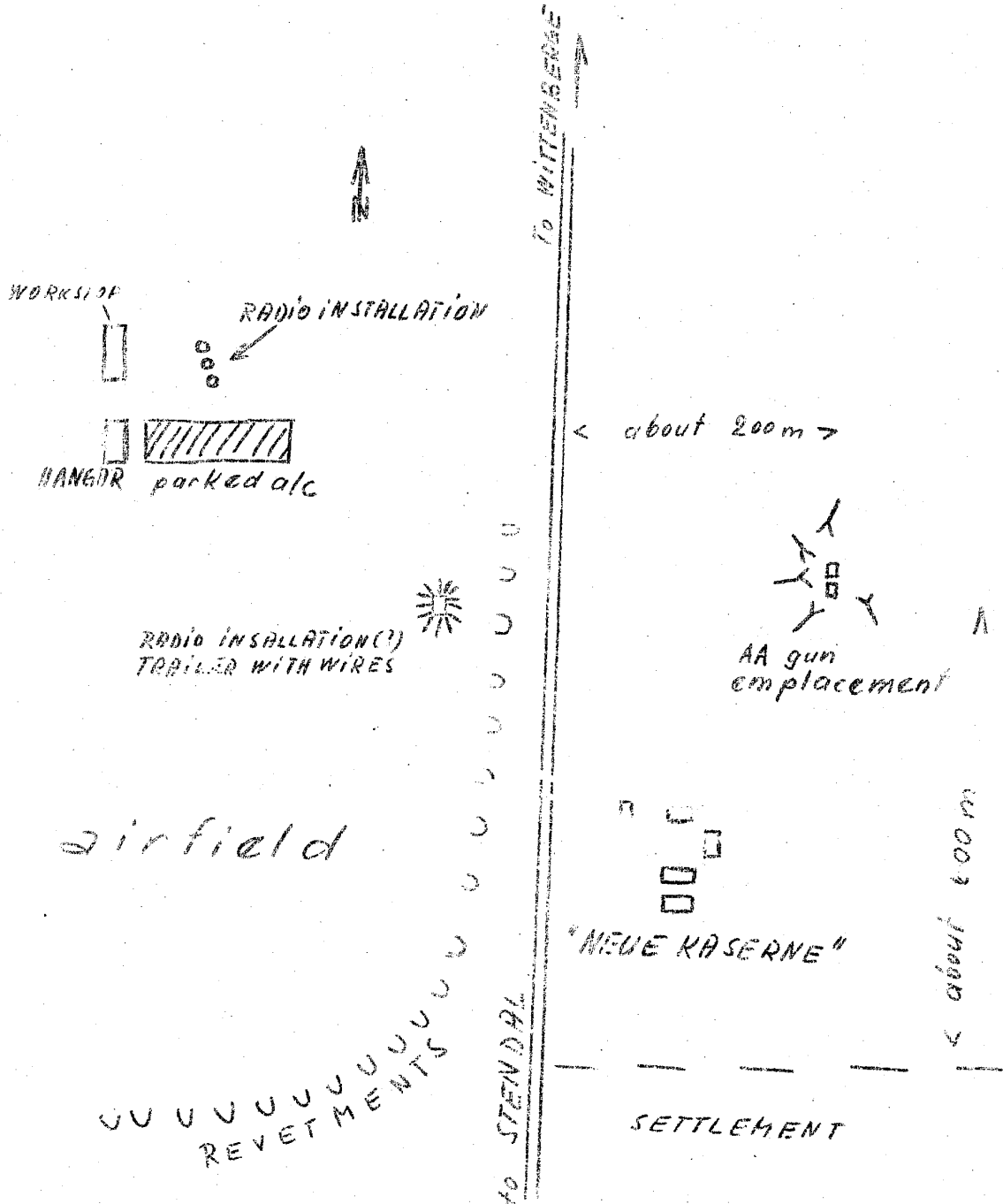
- 3 -



- 25X1A 2.  Comment. For location of radio installation, see Annex 1.
3.  Comment. The barracks buildings are believed to be occupied by AA units which are assigned to the AA batteries stationed at the field.
- 25X1A 4.  Comment. In addition to the AA battery mentioned in the present report two additional batteries one in the southwestern section and one in the northwestern section were previously observed at the field.
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- 25X1A 5.  Comment. For location of shrapnelproof aircraft revetments, see Annex 2.

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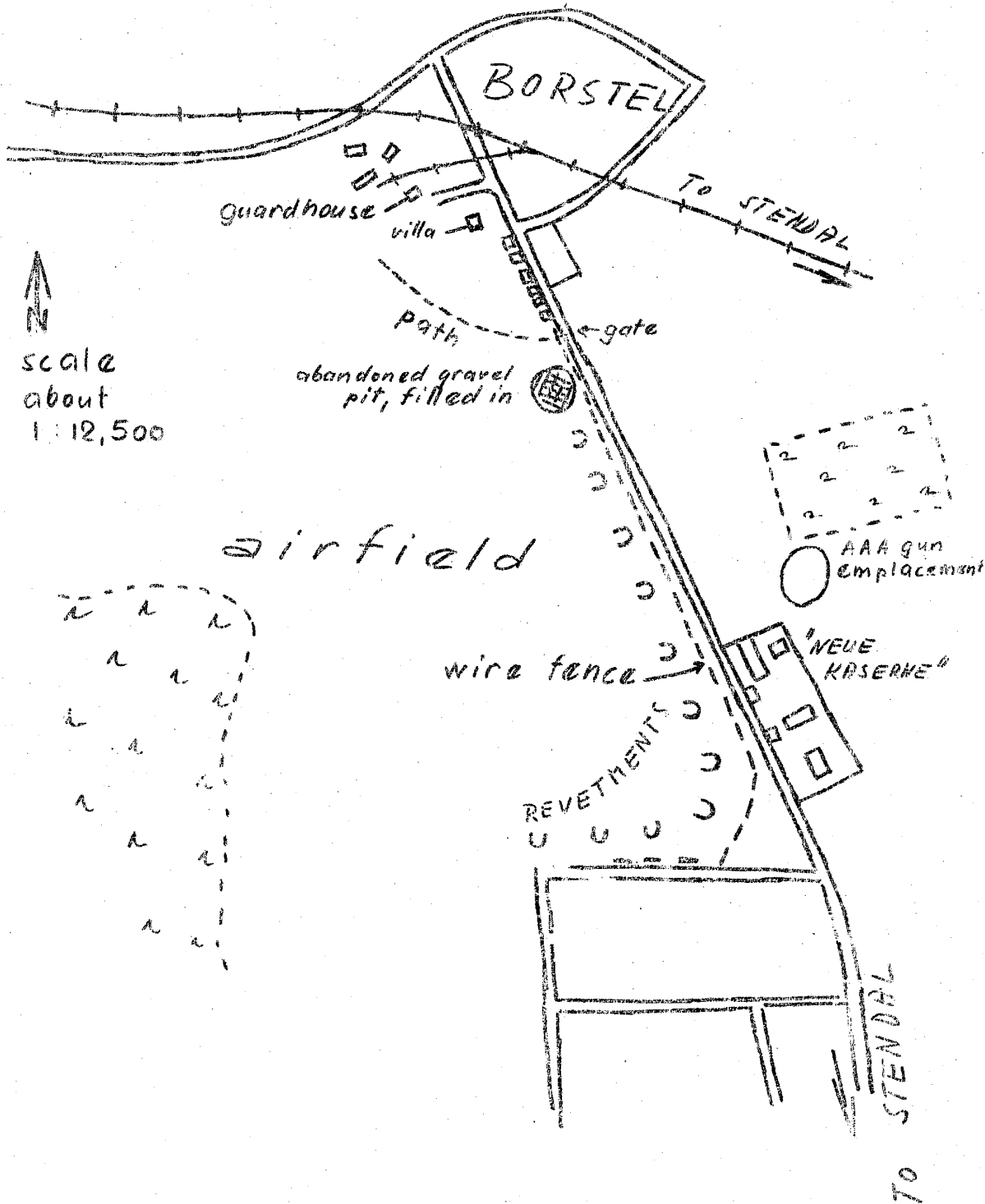
Location Sketch of Radio Installation at Stendal-Borstel Airfield



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Stendal-Borstel Airfield



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